

# Hawaii MARINE

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# 3rd Radio heads to Iraq

## Most Marines headed back for second tour

**Cpl. Megan L. Stiner**  
*Combat Correspondent*

More than 50 members of 3rd Radio Battalion, Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, began their journey back to Iraq Friday and Saturday, as family and friends bid them farewell from the Annex parking lot. Once the Marines arrive in country, they will be serving as a support unit, going to

camps Fallujah, Alasad and Blue Diamond, as needed. According to Lance Cpl. Chris J. Ruiz, armorer, 3rd Radio Battalion, most of the Marines going on this deployment have deployed to Iraq or Afghanistan before. "This will be my first time," said the Santa Ana, Calif. native. "But more than half of the other people are going out again. I am nervous and excited, but I feel more confident because I will be with Marines who have already experienced being there." Sgt. Dustin L. Knight, mechanic, 3rd Radio Battalion, will be one of the Marines returning to Iraq for a second tour. He was deployed in

support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and said he is excited about going back. "I extended in the Marine Corps so I could go back out with my troops," said the Energy, Ill. native. "We are a very close-knit group in Motor 'T' and you just cannot find the type of camaraderie you get when you are deployed to somewhere like Iraq." The last time Knight was deployed he served with Headquarters and Service Company, doing most of his work "out of harms way." This deployment he will be with Alpha Company, supporting mobile operations. "I am looking forward to the change," he

said. "This deployment should be more interesting for me. We are also really prepared this time around, so I am looking forward to the experience." To get ready for their deployment the Marines completed a Tactical Combat Casualty Care course, Enhanced Marksmanship training and Convoy Operations training, in addition to performing their regularly assigned jobs. "We did a lot of training," said Knight. "But I think the best advantage we have is that many of us have been there before, and we know what to expect. Besides missing family, friends and the freedoms back here, this should be a good time."

## Valley high



A Marine of India Company, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, carries an M-240 Golf machine gun to a position to provide security while other Marines maneuver during a security and ambush operation in the Sarkani Valley, Afghanistan, May 7. The battalion is conducting security and stabilization operations in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.



Marines aboard an Amphibious Assault Vehicle look on as Marines from 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, march to Dewey Square for the welcome home and reunion ceremony for 1/3, May 12.

## Ceremony honors 1/3's fallen

**Cpl. Michelle M. Dickson**  
*Combat Correspondent*

"I want to extend a special welcome to the families of our fallen Marines and Sailors," said Lt. Col. Michael R. Ramos, commanding officer, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment. "I am humbled by your tremendous sacrifice and inspired by your strength, your courage and your faith."

These words from the 1/3 commanding officer served as the opening for the welcome home and reunion ceremony on May 12 at Dewey Square aboard Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay.

Speakers at the ceremony included James R. Aiona Jr., lieutenant governor of Hawaii; Col. Jeffery Patterson, commanding officer of 3rd Marine Regiment; and Ramos.

"Today we welcome home our returning Marines and Sailors," said Ramos. "But we will also take a moment to remember those who gave their lives defending freedom — those 51 Sailors and Marines who are not in the formation today, but are here in spirit."

All of the companies of 1/3, along with Charlie Battery, 1/12, marched onto the field that afternoon. The Marines stood during the ceremony and during the close as fellow Marines fired 21 rounds from howitzers in remembrance of the fallen. Dog tags were also made for the families of the fallen; names and information of the 51 Marine and Sailors were engraved onto the tags.

As part of the remembrance ceremony, across the field in the Base Theater, videos were played and pictures of the Marines, while they were in Iraq, were on display for family and friends to view.

As the names were being read at the ceremony, the dog tags of each of the fallen were hung on a rifle, during the moment of remembrance. Those present hung their heads in prayer when Navy Chaplain Brian K. Shearer (Lt.), 3rd Marine Regiment, read the invocation and Navy Chaplain Kenneth R. Lee (Lt.), 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, closed the ceremony with the reading of the benediction.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, Marines, Sailors and families met and talked about the fallen and spent time with each other under the shade of tents and trees, as each company had a tent with refreshments that circled the field. Families had the opportunity to meet and talk with Marines and Sailors who fought with their family member or friend, at one time.

"A lot of people can identify with the concept of 'Band of Brothers,' but don't really get it," said Staff Sgt. William F. Hornsby, assistant operations chief, 1/3. "With this opportunity for the families and the Marines, it becomes more of a reality. When they feel and see it, it becomes real."

The day also brought a sense of closure to the family members and Marines, said Hornsby.

See CEREMONY, A-7

## HMH-463 fights Nanakuli blaze

**Compiled by Hawaii Marine Staff**  
*Marine Corps Base Hawaii*

Helicopters from Heavy Marine Helicopter Squadron 463 based at Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, recently provided



A CH-53 D Sea Stallion prepares its fire bucket to help put out brush fires in Nanakuli Valley, May 12, while a fire rescue helicopter flies over to fill its fire bucket with water to help with the spreading blaze.

much needed support to the Honolulu Fire Department. On May 12, two CH-53D Sea Stallions from HMH-463 were called in to help combat a brush fire in Nanakuli Valley. Working in tandem with three other helicopters, the Sea Stallions made numerous trips from ocean side to the fire site in an effort to stop the fire from spreading as winds continued to fan embers that kept the fire alive. Along with the two Sea Stallions were Air One, two private contractors helicopters, 40 city firefighters and four engines that worked long hours working to

put out the stubborn fire whose flames worked their way up steep mountainsides, preventing anything but the helicopters from reaching them. "We've been sending the helos out there since the weekend of the second," said HMH-463 Crew Chief Gunnery Sgt. Maurice D. Carter. "We're working massive hours to help support the fire departments." Carter explained that "fire bucket sorties" are put into operation when helicopters are used to put out a fire like this one. "The method we use is very effective," said Carter, a Prince George, Va. native. "What we will do is drop a fire bucket of water onto the fire. Then we'll fly back to the ocean and refill the bucket. We will repeat this process 12 times a day. It's been proven to work through trial and error and practical application." In the case of the Nanakuli fire, the water bucket drops were vital to firefighting efforts — especially in light of the windy conditions

See FIRE, A-4

## K-Bay to test alternative energy sources

**John Dunbar**  
*Base Facilities Department*

Fuel cell technology is being tested at Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay. The one-year test installation will evaluate the viability of alternative energy sources and is part of a nationwide effort mandated and funded by Congress. The demonstration program is sponsored by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Construction Engineering Research Laboratory, which selected Kaneohe Bay as one of the test sites. Fuel cells produce electricity through an electrochemical reaction rather than combustion. While currently more expensive than conventional power-generating equipment, fuel cells provide efficient, reliable electric power with minimal emissions. In addition to electric power, fuel cells provide waste heat,

which can be captured through a heat exchanger to provide hot water. Under the CERL program, Logan Energy installed a proton exchange membrane fuel cell, manufactured by Plug Power, Inc., at one of the base housing units. CERL and Logan Energy will monitor the operation of the fuel cell and report on lessons learned. The fuel cell can produce up to 5 kilowatts of electrical power and uses propane as fuel from which it extracts the hydrogen used in the electrochemical process to produce electricity. A typical housing unit uses about 3 kilowatts of electricity. The fuel cell provides power to the house and is connected to the electric power grid to ensure additional power is available if needed or if there is a fuel cell failure. The fuel cell is also supplying enough heat to provide all the domestic hot water needs for the house.

"Our goals at MCBH, Kaneohe Bay are to reduce energy consumption, lower environmental impact and minimize dependency on foreign oil," said Steve Butala, Kaneohe Bay project engineer. "We think fuel cells have the potential to do all that." Representatives from the Army CERL, Dr. Mike Binder and Logan Energy, Sam Logan, recently visited Kaneohe Bay to officially certify the fuel cell installation and check on its operation. Logan noted that the research data being collected from these test fuel cells is helping to identify ways to improve reliability and efficiency. "The next generation of these residential fuel cells is already being produced and are about half the size," he said. Kaneohe Bay is proud to be a partner in this program, and to showcase this alternative energy source as part of the overall Kaneohe Bay energy management program.



# NEWS BRIEFS

## Asian Pacific-American Heritage Luncheon

The Asian Pacific-American Heritage Luncheon is scheduled for May 24 at Anderson Hall Mess Hall from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Featured speaker is Cmdr. Clement Tanaka, executive officer for Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 24.

## Sew a Lei for Memorial Day

In preparation for the 2005 Memorial Day Service on May 30 at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific and other veterans' cemeteries on Oahu and the neighbor islands, all are invited to participate in the making of lei for the more than 50,000 graves of men and women whose service to our country will always be remembered.

All lei must be made of fresh flowers or ti leaves and measure 20 to 24 inches before tying. All lei must be tied. Floral sprays such as ti leaf and anthurium bouquets are welcome.

On the Windward side, lei can be dropped off Friday between 9 and 11:30 a.m. at the Kaneohe Community and Senior Center and from 6 a.m. to noon at the Kaneohe and Kailua fire stations.

For additional information, call 692-5106.

## Silent Auction Slated for May 27

Support your community through participation in a silent auction to benefit an educational fund for the seven children of the Marines who perished in a helicopter crash in Iraq on Jan. 26.

The auction will be held on May 27 from 4 to 8 p.m. at The Officers' Club on Kaneohe Bay. Proceeds will be directed to the Armed Services YMCA, for distribution to the children's educational funds. Items have been donated by organizations such as Hilton Hawaiian Village, Wyland Galleries Makani Kai Helicopter Tours, Luana Hills Golf, Honolulu Zoo, Star of Honolulu, Hilo Hattie, Lowe's, Germaine's Luau, Global Village, Too Good Kayaks, GAP Inc., and various other businesses, restaurants and spa services. The auction is hosted and organized by the VP-9 Officers Spouses' Club, Marine Corps Base, Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay.

For more information, call 206-7112.

## CI/HUMINT Looking for Marines

The Marine Corps needs intelligent, motivated, multi-talented and ambitious corporals, sergeants and staff sergeants with less than eight years of service for lateral moves into the counterintelligence/human intelligence specialist MOS (0211).

For information on qualifications and training and operations call your career planner or call the U.S. Marine Forces Pacific CI/HUMINT branch at 477-8447 or 477-8956.

## HI 5¢ Redemption Sites

Automated redemption machines are stationed in the parking lot across from the Exchange Annex furniture/toy/garden store Tuesdays and Fridays, 12 to 5 p.m.

Call 257-4300 for more information.

## Important Phone Numbers

On-Base Emergencies	257-9111
Military Police	257-7114
Child Protective Service	832-5300
Fraud, Waste, Abuse & EEO	257-8852
Business Management Hotline	257-3188
Pothole & Streetlight Repair	257-2380

## Corrections

In the May 13 issue of the *Hawaii Marine*, it was stated on page A-6 in the "Casualties" story that Parris Island is in California. Parris Island is in South Carolina.

In the same paper, the *Hawaii Marine* stated on page A-4 that McDonald's was going to close June 16 for renovations when it closed Monday.

In the Salutes section of the May 13 *Hawaii Marine*, Gunnery Sgt. Nohelia E. Fritz was incorrectly stated as having received nine Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal when she has received five.

In the Lifestyles section of the same edition, the *Hawaii Marine* reported on page B-3 that Kerry S. Cecil, Mrs. Hawaii is 37 years old. She is 47 years old.

# Hawaii MARINE

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# Commandant supports 2005 BRAC decisions

## Donna Miles

American Forces Press Service

**WASHINGTON** — The secretary of the Navy said Tuesday he's confident that base closures and realignments recommended for the sea service are more than sufficient to fully support the future Navy and Marine Corps force structure.

Gordon R. England, who also serves as acting deputy secretary of defense, told members of the Base Realignment and Closure Commission that the world, the country and the Navy have changed. In response, he said, the Navy must adapt its infrastructure to better meet this new environment.

That involves transforming the military so it's ready to meet current and future threats and demands eliminating excess infrastructure and consolidating operations, England told the commission.

To support this effort, the Defense Department has recommended closing nine major Navy bases and 46 smaller installations and realigning eight major Navy bases.

The recommended changes were based

on saving defense dollars so they can be invested where they're needed and developing bases to support military readiness for the future, Anne Davis, deputy assistant secretary of the Navy, told the committee members.

The Navy's share of the BRAC recommendations, once implemented, would save \$1.5 billion a year.

Adm. Vern Clark, chief of naval operations, and Gen. Michael Hagee, commandant of the Marine Corps, joined England in supporting the BRAC proposals.

Clark told committee members he's never seen a previous BRAC process that focused so closely on joint operations. He said he is impressed by the concrete, objective analysis that went into formulating the recommendations.

Hagee said the proposed changes eliminate excess infrastructure but preserve critical ground and air training areas needed to support military readiness. The proposals also promote joint use of military training sites to maximize their effectiveness.

The decision-making behind the BRAC recommendations has been a very difficult

process for the department, England told the commission, particularly in light of the potential impact on communities that have shown strong support for their local bases.

The process involved very, very difficult choices, Clark agreed, He specifically mentioned the recommendation to close Naval Submarine Base New London, in Connecticut, as the Navy reduces its attack submarine fleet.

Clark said the Navy has established strong relationships with many of the affected communities but had to face current circumstances and long-term requirements.

"We have too much structure," he told the commission. "In order for us to have the Navy that we need to have in the future, we have got to redirect resources to the recapitalization process."

BRAC decisions have to be long-term to accomplish their objectives, he said. "It's not about where I want to be next year. This question is, 'Where do I want to be in 20 years?'" he said.

The 2005 BRAC recommendations, he said, represent the direction to get us where we think we need to be 20 years from now.



PARKER

## HMH-463 Change of Command

Lt. Col. Randel W. Parker will take over command of the Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 463 from Lt. Col. Henry Mathews in a Change of Command ceremony at 4 p.m., Thursday between Hangars 101 and 102 on Marine Corps Base, Kaneohe Bay. In June of 2003, Mathews was transferred to Marine Air Group 24, 1st Marine Air Wing in preparation to assume command of HMH-463, Pegasus.



MATHEWS

## Read the Hawaii Marine Online

To access the *Hawaii Marine* online, log on to [www.mcbh.usmc.mil](http://www.mcbh.usmc.mil) and click on the "Hawaii Marine" link. The current newspaper and past issues, are available.

# Protective body armor sets recalled

## Sgt. Luis R. Agostini

MCB Camp Pendleton

**MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif.** — More than 5,000 units of body armor issued last year to Marines deploying to Operation Iraqi Freedom were indeed substandard — but were combat-worthy enough to save lives on the battlefield, according to Marine Corps statements issued in the past week.

While acknowledging that more than 5,000 units of body armor issued to Marines headed for Iraq last year yielded lower than contracted test results, the vests protected Marines on the battlefield and constituted a significant improvement over previous generations of protective armor, the statements from Marine Corps Systems Command asserted.

Not one Camp Pendleton-based Marine or Sailor deployed to the war on terrorism last year without sufficient body armor, a I Marine Expeditionary Force supply officer said Tuesday.

Lt. Col. David C. Blasko, a supply operations officer with I MEF, echoed Marine Corps Systems Command officials in response to a Marine Corps Times article reporting that some troops deployed to Iraq with sub-standard body armor.

After a recent precautionary recall of 5,277 sets of body armor, I MEF will inventory outer tactical vests issued to Marines and Sailors who deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom last year.

See ARMOR, A-6

## 49th Annual Excellence in Federal Government Awards

The following Marines and civilian employees from Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, were nominated to compete in the 49th Annual Excellence in Federal Government Awards ceremony on June 8. A distinguished panel of prominent local individuals from the private sector rates the nominees in the eight competitive categories. All nominees, island-wide, including Kaneohe Bay nominees will be recognized and the winners will be announced at the awards ceremony.

### Federal Employee of the Year — Clerical and Assistant

Joanne Jahnke  
Facilities Department

### Federal Employee of the Year — Professional Administrative Technical

Diane C. Drigot  
Environmental Compliance Protection Dept., G-4

### Enlisted Service Member of the Year

Staff Sgt. Jon D. Jerome  
Military Police Company, HQBN

### Exceptional Community Service

Staff Sgt. Michael L. Seiner  
Marine Corps Air Facility, Crash Fire Rescue Branch

### Federal Organizational Excellence

Installation Personnel Administration Center  
Chief Warrant Officer 4 Franc E. Montalvo will accept the award on behalf of IPAC.



## The flag waves on



Photo Courtesy of Sgt. Ida M. Gilbert

Former 3rd Marine Regiment Commanding Officer Col. Jeffrey Patterson passes the regimental colors to incoming commanding officer Col. Gregory Boyle in a change of command ceremony held on Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, Monday.

## Weekend weather outlook

### Today



**Day** — Mostly cloudy skies, winds light and variable with morning precipitation

**Night** — Mostly to partly cloudy skies, winds light and variable with a chance of evening precipitation along the mountains

**High** — 82  
**Low** — 73

### Saturday



**Day** — Mostly to partly cloudy skies, winds light and variable out of the north-northeast

**Night** — Mostly to partly cloudy skies, winds light and variable with a chance of evening precipitation along the mountains reducing visibility to 5 miles in rain showers

**High** — 82  
**Low** — 73

### Sunday



**Day** — Partly cloudy skies, winds out of the north-northeast 12-17 mph, with afternoon rain showers

**Night** — Mostly to partly cloudy skies, winds light and variable, becoming out of the north-northeast 7-12 mph

**High** — 82  
**Low** — 73





Photos By Gunnery Sgt. Kent Flora

The three steel caskets contained a folded green blanket; wrapped inside were a few teeth — positively linked to each man by the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command. Atop the blanket, lay a dress uniform pressed and laid out with all their ribbons and decorations. The ceremony honoring the three Marines and one Sailor killed during a reconnaissance patrol May 10, 1967, in the Quang Tri Province of South Vietnam came exactly 38 years later.

# Laid to rest

## Three Marines and one Sailor buried 38 years after death

**Compiled by *Hawaii Marine Staff***  
*Marine Corps Base Hawaii*

**MARINE BARRACKS, WASHINGTON** — Gone, but never forgotten. Three Marines and one Navy hospital corpsman on a reconnaissance mission deep in the jungles of Vietnam have finally come home. Members of the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command, Hawaii recovered the remains, brought them back to American soil where they were identified by the JPAC scientific staff in the central identification laboratory.

This homecoming puts a close on the chapter of four lives cut short the night of May 10, 1967.

The families of 2nd Lt. Heinz Ahlmeyer Jr. of Pearl River, N.Y.; Sgt. James N. Tycz of Milwaukee, Wis.; Lance Cpl. Samuel A. Sharp Jr. of San Jose, Calif.; and Petty Officer 3rd Class Malcolm T. Miller of Tampa, Fla.; can finally put an end to the wait and wipe away the tears of years gone by.

Arlington National Cemetery, the final resting place for America's honored heroes, was the backdrop to the history-making event that saw hundreds of friends, service members and families pay tribute to the men of Alpha Company, 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion, who made the ultimate sacrifice 38 years ago.

Flags were presented to family members during the interment ceremony. Irene Healea, sister to Ahlmeyer; Phillip Tycz, brother to Tycz; Sandra Keheley, sister to Miller; and Nellie Irene Sharp, mother of Sharp, all accepted flags on behalf of their families. Sharp was buried May 7 in San Jose and was honored at the ceremony.

The four men were part of a reconnaissance patrol operating near the Marine Base at Khe Sanh and came under enemy attack in the very early morning hours of May 10, 1967, while occupying a defensive position. The four were killed at the onset of the engagement, but due to hostile fire, their bodies could not be recovered when the rest of the patrol was extracted by helicopter later that morning.

In the fall of 1991 several Vietnamese citizens visited the U.S. POW/MIA office in Hanoi



claiming to have access to the remains of U.S. servicemen. One of the men provided skeletal and teeth fragments.

Between 1993 and 2004, eight joint U.S.-Vietnamese teams led by the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command interviewed witnesses and surveyed the skirmish area. Two other joint teams conducted excavations during which material evidence and remains were recovered. After extensive analysis, scientists from JPAC identified Ahlmeyer, Tycz, Sharp and Miller.

Of the 88,000 Americans missing in action from all conflicts, 1,835 are from the Vietnam War, with 1,398 of those within the country of Vietnam. Another 748 Americans have been accounted for since the end of the Vietnam War.

The Marines of the Corps' "Oldest Post" were entrusted with the ceremonial duty of laying their brothers to rest. The body bearers of B Company here, have the duty of burials at ANC.

The 28th Commandant of the Marine Corps, retired General Paul X. Kelley, escorted the funeral procession as it wound its way from the transfer point at Patterson Circle to the grave site in Section 60 of ANC.

"It is truly an honor to be here today and be part of this event," said the former commandant, who was presented one of the flags during the graveside ceremony.

Former commanding officer of 1st Force Reconnaissance Battalion and current Marine Barracks Washington executive officer, Lt. Col. A.J. Copp, said the ceremony was significant because not only did it bring closure to the families and teammates of these heroic servicemen, it also demonstrated the resolve of the government in recovering our MIAs.

"I can think of no greater honor than attending this interment, particularly after commanding reconnaissance Marines in combat myself," Copp said. "With General Kelley's presence, as well as the former 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion Veterans and friends of the Corps, it truly was a significant event and profound reinforcement of our Corps' motto — Semper Fidelis."

Even with the tears shed by fellow Marines who served with the men in the Quang Tri Province of South Vietnam, there is relief — relief that their brothers have returned home.

"We all went over together; we all fought and now they have come home, too," said Art Foss, President of Rolling Thunder, Chapter 3, Dumfries, Va. "We're not going to rest until we all come home."

Rolling Thunder is an organization that publicizes the issues concerning POWs and MIAs.

*Compiled from a Department of Defense press release and a story by Gunnery Sgt. Kent Flora, Marine Barracks Washington.*



The 28th Commandant of the Marine Corps, retired Gen. P.X. Kelley, trails the body bearer section of Marine Barracks Washington and the hearse during the funeral procession honoring three Marines and one Sailor killed May 10, 1967, in the Quang Tri Province of South Vietnam.



Navy body bearers fold an American flag in preparation for the interment ceremony for Petty Officer 3rd Class Malcolm Thomas Miller at Arlington National Cemetery, May 10. Miller, a hospital corpsman assigned to Alpha Company, 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion, was on patrol in the Quang Tri Province of South Vietnam when his unit was attacked shortly after midnight May 10, 1967. The Tampa, Fla. native returned home after 38 years. His sister Sandra Keheley accepted the flag on behalf of Miller's family. Three Marines who were killed the same night as Miller were also honored at the ceremony.



# All branches receive training on use of non-lethal weapons

**Cpl. Michelle M. Dickson**  
*Combat Correspondent*

An entire morning was dedicated May 11, to the United States Pacific Command Non-Lethal Weapons and Capabilities War Fighter Conference, which took place in a classroom at Combat Camera, Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay.

Attending the seminar were military members from all branches or the armed forces, which defined non-lethal weapons as weapons that are explicitly designed and primarily employed so as to incapacitate personnel or material, while minimizing fatalities, permanent injury to personnel, and undesired collateral damage to property and the environment.

Attendees took a survey at the beginning of the seminar. Questions covered were based on background knowledge of non-lethal weapons and their capabilities. Once completed, a series of video clips were shown and scenarios were given for the attendees to watch and discuss with the group. The video clips consisted of demonstrations on how a variety of non-lethal weapons are affectively put to use.

All students were given a joint-service, non-lethal weapons directorate reference book for future information on the subject.



Cpl. Megan L. Stiner

The United States Pacific Command Non-Lethal Weapons and Capabilities War Fighter Conference, takes place in a classroom at Combat Camera, Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, May 11, bringing together all branches of the armed forces.



Pfc. Roger L. Nelson

A fire rescue helicopter flies over to fill its fire bucket with water to help put out the fires May 12, at Nanakuli Valley.

## FIRE: Crews work tirelessly to control fire

*From A-1*

and extensive plant and tree life that exists throughout the valley. Reports from a local forester indicated that this fire destroyed approximately one-fifth of the Nanakuli Forest Reserve. At danger, too, were Hawaii's gardenia plants as well as local schools and private residences.

According to Carter, although this fire-fighting technique is effective, it is a long process that takes four to six hours of preparation before the helo reaches the site.

"We've been supporting the surrounding fire departments getting to places they cannot reach for an average of eight hours a day," said Carter.

The fire buckets used in this method hold 420 to 600 gallons of water, which is equivalent to 3,500 pounds of water. Each bucket of water can cover an area of 50 yards or more when used in proper conditions.

"It really depends on the air and wind," said Carter. "The wind can push the water to cover an even larger area."

Carter said that the HFD is always pleased with the help from the Marine Corps helicopters and are grateful for the support.

"During spring and summer the planes are always on fire bucket stand-by," said Carter. "We're always here to help and in the time the departments need us we're always willing to support."

## Money for a cause

Mokapu Elementary School 6th graders (from left) Galen Slaughter, Whitney Wilkes, Carlie Priddy, Brittany Moore, and 4th grader Kelly Pereboon, pose with their Student Council Advisor Dee Reimer, displaying oversized checks that represent money they raised to donate to: The American Heart Association (\$2,350); The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (\$250) and Tsunami Relief (\$900). Students from Mokapu Elementary School, Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, began their yearlong fund-raising efforts by holding a "Penny Drive," a "Jump Rope for Heart" competition, and a "Pencil Gram" sale, from which they raised the \$3,500 that they gave to the three charities.



Cpl. Michelle M. Dickson

### quotable

"Courage is not the absence of fear,  
but rather the judgment that something else is more important than fear."  
— Ambrose Redmoon



# Grainger opens Mini Mart on base

**Press Release**  
*Grainger*

Have you had to delay a project because you didn't have the right tool, the right part, or some form of safety equipment that you could only get outside of the base? Now, the Facilities Department and base personnel, such as contractors, have a quick and conven-



Pfc. Roger L. Nelson

A customer service associate at the Grainger Industrial Supply Mini Mart, rings up merchandise for a customer during the store's grand opening, May 12.

ient, on-base option that allows them to quickly pick up needed products to help get the job done. Grainger, a supplier of facilities maintenance products and contractor supplies, is bringing a customized broad product and service offering to Marine Corp Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, through a new 5,000-square-foot Mini Mart in Building 209 located adjacent to the Contracting Office. The grand opening for the Mini Mart was May 12 and featured a ribbon-cutting ceremony.

"We are proud to serve the Kaneohe Bay Marine Corps Base. For more than 15 years, we served the installation from our Honolulu branch, and now we will be able to provide even more customized inventory in close proximity," said Kevin Vegas a Grainger employee. "The new dedicated, on-site branch will help our base customers save time and

money in getting the products they need to keep facilities up and running."

Grainger's new 5,000-square-foot branch will stock more than 4,000 products that are tailored to the needs of the base. These items include manufacturing, heating, ventilating and air-conditioning products, motors, electrical and safety supplies. A modern showroom with self-serve product displays will enable customers to easily find the products they're looking for and get them on their way. To add speed and convenience, customers can call their orders in ahead of time and pick them up at the "will-call counter."

Among the services the Grainger branch team at the base will provide are product selection assistance, access to repair parts, and technical support for product application and installation.

For more information about the new facility or to place orders, base customers can call 423-0028, send a fax to 423-0031, stop by the Mini Mart or visit Grainger's Web site at [grainger.com](http://grainger.com). Normal business hours for the branch are 7 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.

Grainger's new on-site branch at Kaneohe Bay is one of four facilities that are currently operating on site at military installations.



Pfc. Roger L. Nelson

Lance Cpl. Mark Raymond, traffic management specialist, Headquarters Battalion, looks for supplies during the grand opening of the Grainger Industrial Supply Mini Mart, May 12.

**ARMOR, *From A-2***

The outer tactical vest is the base component of the Interceptor Body Armor System that also includes Small Arms Protective Inserts that protect against direct fire from assault rifles, and the Armor Protection Enhancement System, which guards the neck, arms and groin.

The recall, initiated by the Quantico, Va.-based Marine Corps Systems Command, was a response to the Marine Corps Times article by Christian Lowe published Monday. It reported that the Corps knowingly issued sub-standard body armor to Marines and Sailors deploying in support of the Global War on Terrorism. The article also cast doubt on whether the outer tactical vests can stop a 9 mm round.

A May 9 statement from Marine Corps Systems Command categorically maintains that these outer tactical vests are capable of defeating the 9 mm threat for which they are designed.

The statement also explained the voluntary recall: “Because we knew this article was forthcoming and would sow seeds of doubt in the minds of Marines in active combat, we concluded the only way to rapidly remove these doubts was to recall the vests in question.”

The body armor was urgently needed and fielded when Marines were ordered back into Iraq in spring 2004, the statement said. The outer tactical vests replaced the outdated Personnel Armor System for Ground Troops flak jacket, according to the statement.

The vests were issued after testing to provide the best available protection as Marines rotated into harm’s way, the statement read.

“This system is the most revolutionary personal protection system fielded to warriors in the past several decades,” the statement asserted.

Marines should not return the body armor, which is still classified as serviceable, until replacements are available, according to an All-Marine administrative message released May 4.

According to the statement, “present combat operations preclude us from retesting at this time to prove to our Marines these vests are effective. Therefore, we initiated the recall.”

Of the approximately 19,000 vests the Marine Corps Times article addresses, 5,277 are subject to recall. Of the remaining 14,000 vests, 10,000 have never been accepted or fielded by the Marine Corps, according to the statement.

That leaves 4,000 vests, approximately 3,000 of which passed all quality and testing standards. The remaining 992 vests also passed all tests, but were withheld by a Marine Corps contracting officer because they were in the same production run as the recalled vests, according to the statement.

Despite the lab test failures, the armor in question proved vital in the biggest test of all — combat — officials said.

Just days before last November’s offensive, Cpl. Joshua Miles, a squad leader with Company L, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, was hit by fragments from a mortar round during a security patrol on the outskirts of Fallujah, Iraq. Fragments from the mortar hit his flak jacket and Kevlar helmet and went through the left arm sleeve of his uniform.

“It is a great piece of gear. Marines have to make sure they are wearing the gear,” Miles said.

“Operation Iraqi Freedom casualty data gathered from the Office of the Armed Forces Medical Examiner and the Navy/Marine Corps Combat Trauma Registry proves that the outer tactical vest ... is highly effective in reducing the number of lethal and non-lethal wounds to the chest and abdomen,” the statement said.

The Marine Corps has issued more than 181,000 outer tactical vests to Marines in operating forces. The recalled outer tactical vests

represent less than 3 percent of the total number fielded.

“The Marine Corps’ first concern is the safety and physical protection of our individual Marines,” the statement read.

Although known to do more with less, the Corps wants to assure U.S. taxpayers that their sons and daughters are not sent into harm’s way without sufficient gear, the statement read.

“We would expect the concerned mothers and fathers of America to want their sons and daughters to have the best possible protection available when they deployed and entered into combat,” the statement

read. “Consequently, we don’t believe that they would have wanted their Marines to deploy to Iraq with the obsolete PASGT vest while we wait for a 100 percent solution when a 99.9 percent solution was at hand.”



## CEREMONY: Marines, families find closure

**CEREMONY, From A-1**

“For the families to be able to put faces with names, and to be able to hear what kind of man their son was out there — to meet who he was friends with in his last year, month and

minute," said Hornsby. "It brings closure, but it only makes it more of a definite reality as well."

The 51 Marines and Sailors from 1/3 who perished in Iraq are mourned by family members and fellow Marines and Sailors; and on May 12 they paid

tribute to them as they honored and remembered them.

"It was my distinct honor to have led these men in combat," said Ramos. "Their performance was nothing short of magnificent and is the stuff of Marine Corps legend."



Cpl. Michelle M. Dickson/Photo Altered

Dog tags stamped with the information of the fallen 3rd Marine Regiment Marines and Sailors are hung on an M-16A2 service rifle during the welcome home and remembrance ceremony held May 12 at Dewey Square.



**Cpl. Michelle M. Dickson**

**Above — A bagpiper plays “Amazing Grace” during the ceremony.**

Above right — Cpl. Paul Johnson (left) and Lance Cpl. Skyler Albertson tend their canon during the firing of 21 rounds, finalizing the tribute to the fallen Marines of 3rd Marine Regiment. Skyler and Johnson are both canoners with Charlie Battery, 1st Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment.



Sgt. Joseph A. Lee



Cpl. Michelle M. Dickson

Marines from 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, march onto Dewey Square for opening ceremonies of the welcome home and reunion ceremony, May 12.

# DUIs are career killers

Congratulations MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, no DUIs were reported this week.

# Marine Forces Pacific Band Schedule

**Today, 6 p.m.**

MCSB Mess Night  
Mess Night Detail  
Staff NCO Club

**Tuesday, 2:30 p.m.**

Army NCO Academy  
Graduation  
Brass Quintet  
Stoneman Field,  
Schofield Barracks

**Wednesday, 10 a.m.**

Corporal's Course  
Graduation  
Brass Quintet  
Kaneohe Bay  
Base Theater

**Thursday, 4 p.m.**

HMH-463  
Change of Command  
Ceremonial Band  
Between Hangars 1 and  
2, Kaneohe Bay

**Friday, 8 a.m.**

MarForPac Colors  
Ceremonial Band  
Camp Smith

**Friday, 10 a.m.**

Navy Retirement For  
Lead Chief Petty  
Officer Keller  
Brass Quintet  
USS Missouri,  
Pearl Harbor

**May 29, 5:30 p.m.**

Vietnam Veterans  
Candlelight Memorial  
Day Ceremony  
Ceremonial Band  
National Memorial  
Cemetery of the Pacific

**June 1, 9 a.m.**

Deputy Commander  
Retirement Ceremony  
Ceremonial Band  
Pacific War Memorial

The Marine Forces Pacific Band schedule of performances is available on the Web at [www.mfp.usmc.mil/mfpband/main.htm](http://www.mfp.usmc.mil/mfpband/main.htm).